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Wednesday, 12 Oct 2011

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Dear Friends,

Charting Priorities for Our Lives

As the fall calendar unfolds, our conference and associations are hitting full stride. The Conference staff and I are "on the road again", working with churches, preaching, speaking, planning, and much more.

Our newly elected Board of Directors held our first meeting in September, and they have begun to chart priorities for our lives together in the program year 2011—2012. Here are some of the matters we discussed:



1. Upon reviewing our **Treasurer's Report** through August, it appears that we can anticipate a deficit of \$30,000-\$40,000 in 2011. We have authorized covering that shortfall through the reserve fund, but as we plan for 2012, we need to address this continuing pattern of deficits in our financial life
2. Our staff is putting the foundations in place for the **PATHWAYS program** which starts this fall. The first church to gather a significant number of participants is our newest church, Safe Harbor Family Church UCC in Jackson, MS. This is the first year in which we have offered a United Church of Christ History and Polity class in the fall. This class will be the history and polity component of PATHWAYS. We are recruiting other conferences to participate, and are developing our partnership with Lancaster Theological Seminary, and working with the Center for Progressive Renewal to develop our instructional platform. I have been elected to serve on the Board of Trustees of Lancaster Theological Seminary in part to represent our partnership with them in that setting.
3. Debbie Spearman reported that her job description is evolving as she begins to complete the follow-up to the Campaign to **Transform Churches and Transform Lives**. She is providing support and resources to church for financial development and stewardship education. She will be going to Cleveland this fall to become acquainted with the work of the national UCC, and the ways in which we can work more closely with them.
4. We are continuing to seek ways in which to **communicate better**, and received comments and recommendations concerning our web site, our online presence, and expanding the ways in which we communicate.
5. The Board reviewed the prospect of renewing the **lease** in our current location when it is due in May, 2012.
6. The **Global Theological Education program**, in collaboration with Lancaster

**UCC News****UCC Newsroom**

Headlines from the United Church of Christ

U.S. Attorney drops charges against 'Interfaith 11' stemming from summer prayer protest in Rotunda

WASHINGTON, D.C. The U.S. Attorney on Oct. 11 cleared a group of interfaith church leaders — including a former president of the United Church of Christ and the director of the UCC's Washington, D.C., office — of charges stemming from their July 28 arrest for holding a prayer vigil in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. The vigil was in response to the threatened shutdown of the federal government over the deadlocked legislation.



Theological Seminary is gearing up for a trip to Thailand in January. Additionally, we collaborated with the Fuller Center for Housing to support a group traveling this summer to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to build houses and deliver a sawmill in August.

7. Our conference hosted the **regional gathering of conference ministers** of the Southern Region of the UCC. This meeting resulted in the prospect of some exciting collaborations among the conference in this region, around youth ministries, leadership consultations, PATHWAYS, financial management, and financial development.

8. We reorganized the **task forces and advisory committees** of the Board for this program year.

In summary, this promises to be a year of tremendous program opportunities, and you are served by an energetic and visionary Board.

Follow this link to see a [complete list of our Southeast Conference Board of Directors](#). [Link here for the SEC Board of Director's contact information](#). Please keep in touch with our board.

Peace,

Tim Downs
Timothy C. Downs

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EVENTS CALENDAR

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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